



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Phil Andrews

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Councilmember Phil Andrews Says PTA Opposition to Proposed Youth Curfew 'Is Further Validation for Review'

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ROCKVILLE, Md., October 28, 2011—Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews, who chairs the Council's Public Safety Committee and is a member of its Education Committee, today said that this week's vote by the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations to oppose the youth curfew proposed by County Executive Isiah Leggett "is further validation by the County Council to review the County Executive's proposed curfew in a careful and deliberate fashion."

Earlier this week, the Council of PTAs passed a resolution stating its position to oppose the curfew. "Laws already exist for police to deal with suspicious behavior," reads the adopted resolution. "Imposing a law on the entire population of Montgomery County youth when the culprit exists in a small segment of the county is unjustifiable. In addition, the 10 exceptions that Mr. Leggett has made make it difficult to enforce a limited curfew with consistency."

After learning of the PTA's position, Councilmember Andrews said: "Who knows better than parents what is in their children's best interest?"

(MORE)

Councilmember Andrews' complete statement on the resolution passed by the Council of PTAs:

"The resolution approved by the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) to oppose a youth curfew in Montgomery County is notable and important. The MCCPTA is a well-respected countywide organization comprised of tens of thousands of parents of school-age youth—youth who would be adversely affected by the County Executive's unjustified proposal. Who knows better than parents what is in their children's best interest?

"The decision by the MCCPTA is further validation of the decision by the County Council to review the County Executive's proposed curfew in a careful and deliberative fashion, rather than to approve it hastily as the Executive proposed."

The resolution adopted by the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations on Oct. 25:

**Resolution in Opposition to Legislation
of a Limited Youth Curfew in Montgomery County
Adopted October 25, 2011**

WHEREAS, all parents want their children to be safe.

WHEREAS, the County Executive, Ike Leggett has proposed a limited curfew aimed at teens "to improve the safety of juveniles, the safety of residents and visitors to our increasingly urbanized communities, and to reduce juvenile-related crimes."

WHEREAS, there has been a 50% decline in gang-related crime from 2008 to 2011, which shows that current strategies are working without punitive measures. State-wide grants since 2008, after-school programs and supports, and people such as Luiz Cardona, Montgomery County Violence Prevention Coordinator, have demonstrated positive ways of combating gang activity and crime instead of through punitive measures for all such as a curfew.

WHEREAS, laws already exist for police to deal with suspicious behavior. Imposing a law on the entire population of Montgomery County youth when the culprit exists in a small segment of the county is unjustifiable. In addition, the ten exceptions that Mr. Leggett have made it difficult to enforce a limited curfew with consistency (such as when on an errand at the direction of the parent or guardian without any detour or stop until 12:30 a.m.)

THEREFORE, MCCPTA resolves that MCCPTA opposes a youth curfew, yet supports continuing efforts to combat crime through positive prevention programs and supports.

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